Accessions (2171 1)

Shelf No. 2154.62

GIVEN BY

S. A. Green, M. D.,

Nov. 19, 1890.

Heliotype Printing Co. Boston

Boston Public Library,
from Samuel A. Green.
Pph. covers.

REMARKS

ON

AN EARLY FILE OF THE BOSTON NEWS-LETTER,

MADE BEFORE

THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

NOVEMBER 13, 1890.

With a Letter by Thomas Jefferson.

BY

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN, M.D.

2154.62
B.
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

S. A. Green, M. D.,
21.711
Nov. 19, 1890.

REMARKS.

At a meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, held on November 13, 1890, Dr. Samuel A. Green made the following remarks on a file of "The Boston News-Letter" (April 24, 1704, to April 19, 1708), which once belonged to Chief-Justice Samuel Sewall: —

A few weeks ago, while visiting the library of the New York Historical Society, I had an opportunity to examine a bound volume of "The Boston News-Letter," covering the period from April 24, 1704, to April 19, 1708. The file is nearly complete, lacking only five numbers, and includes the first four years of the newspaper. It was given to that Society in 1805, a short time after its organization, by George Bruce, a well known type-founder of New York. The earlier volumes of the News-Letter are exceedingly rare, and, so far as my knowledge goes, this file is the best one extant. In the margin of some of the numbers are notes in the handwriting of Chief-Justice Samuel Sewall, which in a few instances are signed with the initials "S. S." This signature would seem to dispel any doubt, that might otherwise exist, as to their authorship. Occasionally such notes refer to matters mentioned in his Diary, which is published in the Collections (fifth series, vols. v.–vii.) of our Society. There is also in the same hand an index of four pages to certain articles printed in various issues.

Scattered throughout the volume are several contemporaneous broadsides and other papers, bound up with the numbers of the newspaper, which give an additional interest and value to the file. These publications are as follows: —

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

I. After No. 11, July 3, 1704, is

An Account of the Behaviour and last Dying

SPEECHES

Of the Six Pirates, that were Executed on *Charles River*, *Boston* side, on Fryday *June* 30th. 1704. *Viz.*

Capt. John Quelch, John Lambert, Christopher Scudamore, John Miller, Erasmus Peterson *and* Peter Roach. (Pages 2.)

This sheet is also found bound up in the file of the News-Letter belonging to our Society, where it appears after No. 10, June 26, 1704.

II. After No. 121, August 12, 1706, is

A Copy of the Last Will and Testament of

Richard Bellingham Eſqr.

Late Governour of the Colony of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*.

And ſome Arguments to prove this was the said Governours last Will, and was Proved | and Approved as ſuch, and ought to continue valid against the Attempts of all that | would Nullify the ſame. |

Published by the Reverend Mr. *James Allen*, one of the Executors in said Will named. | (Pages 2.)

A manuscript note in the upper margin of the first page says: "Given me by Mr. S. Stoddard, Augt. 6. 1706."

III. After No. 173, August 11, 1707, a broadside: —

May 28*th* 1706.

To my Worthy Friend,

Mr. James Bayley,

Living (if Living) in *Roxbury*. A POEM.

This broadside is signed "Nicholas Noyes," and on it is written: "Printed July 30th 1707." Judge Sewall, in his printed Diary, under date of May 27, 1706, says: "Mr. Noyes had left his Verses for Mr. Bayley, which I carried with me [from Salem] next morning." Probably Mr. Noyes was at that time in doubt whether Mr. Bayley was still alive, as then for many weeks he had been sick unto death.

Mr. Sibley, in his "Harvard Graduates" (II. 245), says that these Lines were printed in the News-Letter, August 11,

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1707; but this is an error. He evidently followed the authority of Professor Moses Coit Tyler, who makes the same statement in his "History of American Literature" (II. 43 *note*). Presumably Professor Tyler examined this file in the New York library, and inadvertently described the broadside as a number of the newspaper. On a later page (298) of his volume Mr. Sibley modifies the statement, and says that the verses "are sometimes bound with files of the Boston News-Letter."

IV. After the same number (173) : —

Informations | And | Directions | For the making of Tar and choice of Trees | for the same, as in *Finland*, &c. (Pages 2.)

This paper is signed "J. Bridger, Surveyor Gen. of all Her Majesties Woods, *&c.* in *America*"; and the imprint at the bottom of page 2 is "Boston in New-England, Printed by B. Green, July, 1707."

V. After No. 178, September 15, 1707, a broadside : —

A Pindarick ELEGY Upon the Renowned,

Mr. Samuel Willard,

Late Reverend Teacher of the South Church in *Boston*, and Vice-President of *Harvard College* in *Cambridge*;
Who deceased *September* the 12*th*. 1707. *Ætatis Anno* 68.

This Elegy, printed with an engraved border, is signed "John Danforth" as the author. He was a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1677; but the title does not appear in the list of Danforth's works, given in the "Harvard Graduates" (II. 511–514).

VI. After No. 189, December 1, 1707 : —

Tuesday, November, 25, 1707.

The Reasons of my withdrawing my Vote from what was Pass'd in Council, | upon *Saturday*, November the First, relating to an Address offered to Her | Majesty, Sign'd *Nath. Higginson* &c. |

. . . . . .

Samuel Sewall.

Boston N. E. Printed December, 10. 1707.

I am indebted to Mr. William Kelby, Assistant Librarian of the New York Historical Society, for a careful collation of these titles.

While I am on my feet, Mr. President, I will call the attention of the members to another matter. Within a short time an application has been received for permission to copy a letter written by Thomas Jefferson, now belonging to the Society, with a view to its publication in a forthcoming edition of Jefferson's Works. The subject was referred to the Council, as usual; and by them I have been instructed to submit the letter at this time, so that it will appear in the Proceedings, as follows: —

MONTICELLO Aug. 5. 17.

DEAR SIR Your favor of July 14. was duly recieved with my acc^{t} annexed, which I believe is all right except that to the balance of 662.19 should be added an error of 10. D. in the account of Dec. 31. 1816. where the proceeds of the sale of 175. Bar. flour for 1581.75 is mis-entered as 1571.75 this error of the copyist is easily rectified. I believe also I have not yet been credited the charge of 31. D. ordered to be p̄d to Dufief but not actually paid, debited to me Aug. 4. 16 (see explanation in my lres of Feb. 9. & 17th Dufief's letter inclosed to you, and yours of Feb. 13.) I was surprised to learn by a letter of July 15. from mr̄ Yansey that 3. hh̄ds of my tob^{o} remained still at Lynchb^{g} by failure of the promise of the boatmen, which however he said would go off in a few days. we have also a hogshead here which Johnson will take down the first swell of the river. be so good as to sell these on their arrival for what they will bring I shall be obliged shortly to count on their proceeds in my draughts; as on my arrival at Poplar Forest, (to which I set out the day after tomorrow) I must draw in favor of mr̄ Robertson for 800. D. and before my departure in fav^{r} of Sam^{l} Carr or order for about 150. or 160. D. my general view of the present state of my account is about thus.

1817. July 1.	balc^{e} by acc^{t} rendered	662.19	1817. June 27.	Ordr favr Southall	990.
1816. Aug. 4.	payment to Dufief charged.	31.	July 7.	Note bk̄ Virgi redeem^{d}	2000.
Dec. 31.	miscopying of article of 1581.75.	10.		Ord. to be drawn — Robertson	800
1817. July 9.	note in bk̄ U S.	3000			3790
	4 hhds tob^{o} to be yet sold suppose	400.		balance	333.19
	2. Barrels condemn^{d} flour. suppose	20.			4123.19
		4123.19			

on this will be the draught in fav^{r} of Sam Carr, am^{t} not exactly known. I must also request you to send me a small bale of cotton the first

time Johnson goes down. he will call on you for it. I shall not be able to replenish my funds until by 50. Bar. rent flour about 90. days hence, and perhaps some crop flour from home. I expect to remain in Bedford till the middle of next month. consequently a blank stamp for my note in the bk th^{o} due Sep. 9 should be forwarded to me in Bedford, and the sooner the surer. I am affectionately & respectfully yours

TH: JEFFERSON

The letter is written on the back of another one, which bears the superscription "Thomas Jefferson Esqr Mountichello." It is endorsed in Jefferson's handwriting, "Gibson Patrick. Aug. 5. 17," to whom without doubt the finished letter was sent, and was probably kept by the writer as a rough draft or copy. The way of spelling "Mountichello" is a suggestion that the name was formerly pronounced as an Italian word.

(Feb., 1891, 20,000)

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

One volume allowed at a time, and obtained only by card; to be kept 14 days (or seven days in the case of fiction and juvenile books published within one year) without fine; not to be renewed; to be reclaimed by messenger after 21 days, who will collect 20 cents besides fine of 2 cents a day, including Sundays and holidays; not to be lent out of the borrower's household, and not to be transferred; to be returned at this Hall.

Borrowers finding this book mutilated or unwarrantably defaced, are expected to report it; and also any undue delay in the delivery of books.

***No claim can be established because of the failure of any notice, to or from the Library, through the mail.

The record below must not be made or altered by borrower.

1 JAN 18